



From the Desk of Howard
County Councilmember
Dr. Calvin Ball

March 2015

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Construction Edition

Welcome!

In an effort to keep you informed, it's my pleasure to share a list of projects currently under construction around our community and their respective timelines, where available. These projects may cause delays, so I encourage you to stay tuned, plan ahead and use caution when driving.

Have questions about an ongoing construction project in your neighborhood? Please reach out to me so I can look into it for you!

Please feel free to share this information with your neighbors. If you have ideas on projects within District Two or Howard County you'd like to see within this newsletter, please email me at cbball@howardcountymd.gov or my Special Assistant Kim Pruiam at kpruiam@howardcountymd.gov.

Current Projects

Court Avenue Construction

A Howard County emergency construction project to stabilize an existing wall on Court Avenue has begun. A portion of the sidewalk on Court Avenue leading to Main St will be closed during the project. Weather permitting, the work to stabilize the wall is expected to be completed by late March.

For questions or concerns, contact Lisa Brightwell at 410-313-3440 or email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Rt100 @ Rt29 Light Outage

Due to manholes filled with water, SHA is reporting the lights on Rt100 at Rt29 are out. They will need to replace the connector kits to restore power. There is no timeframe on its completion.

Bain Center Reopening

Our Department of Citizen Services announced the Bain Center will reopen Monday, March 23, following the rupture of a sprinkler head which resulted in over 2in of water, causing significant damage that required new flooring, drywall & painting repairs and inspection/repair of sprinkler system.

On March 23, the Center will resume weekday hours of M-F 8:30am-4:30pm **only**, while final repair work is completed. Evening and weekend hours are expected to begin in early April.

For more info, go [online](#) or call 410-313-6410 or email aging@howardcountymd.gov.

Rt 29 Widening Project

Phase 1A Extension of Old Columbia Road

This project is currently under construction and includes utility relocation and new roadway clearing. The extension of Old Columbia Rd to Twin Knolls Rd will permit SHA to close the intersection at NB Rt29. This project is expected to be completed by spring 2015, weather permitting.

Phase 1B NB Rt29 Third Lane Widening & Noise Wall Construction

Construction has begun and the project is anticipated to be complete in September 2016, weather permitting. SHA is still in negotiations with the two remaining property owners on Gales Ln to resolve direct access to Rt29.

Noise walls will be constructed along the east side of NB Rt29 from Seneca Dr to Rt175. To facilitate construction of noise walls south of the exit ramp NB US29 to EB Rt175, the ramp must be relocated approx. 300ft to the north. At that time, traffic will be detoured to west Rt175 exit ramp and directed around the loop ramps of the Rt175 interchange.

Rivers's Edge: SHA is working with the River's Edge Community regarding options for this interchange.

Rt 1 at Assateague Dr

This SHA and County collaboration was initiated as a request from my office to help improve walkability and pedestrian safety. Specifically, the County will construct a sidewalk along Assateague Dr from Rt 1 right-of-way (ROW) line to the end of the existing sidewalk (900+ft). We are working through utility conflicts and hoping to move forward with construction in the summer of 2015. SHA has agreed to construct a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. This project has begun and construction is ongoing.

Rt 175 at Dorsey Run Rd

The County is scheduled to finish the corrections to the ADA ramps at the intersection that were left unfinished. The County has received approval of the re-design. Work is scheduled to begin Spring 2015.



Snowden River Park & Ride

This project will include the addition of 96 parking spaces. Construction work has begun, grading is complete. With colder temperatures upon us, we anticipate work to be complete in Spring 2015.

Deep Run ES Addition / Renovation

Construction on Phase I has begun and will include a 2 story classroom addition in the rear of Deep Run Elementary School building as well as an Administrative suite with secure vestibule in the front. HCPSS anticipates completion in Summer 2015.

Whiskey Bottom Rd Backup Generator

SHA has constructed backup generator on Whiskey Bottom Road for its traffic signals. Due to complications, they are still working through issues before it will be fully operational. SHA is also considering a Hanover site.

Maintenance Yard Construction

This project will upgrade a Howard County Bureau of Utilities maintenance yard in Columbia. The project will include construction of a pre-engineered sewer rig building, storage bins and a maintenance and storage building at 8250 and 8270 Old Montgomery Road. Additionally, improvements will be made to the site's existing maintenance building and wash bay. Weather permitting, the project should be completed by early December 2015.

Rt 175 at Thunder Hill Rd

The county has completed pedestrian improvements at Rt175 and Thunder Hill Rd including a missing portion of sidewalk in front of Walgreens. This project was initiated at my request and is a collaboration with the County and SHA. To complete the work, SHA must install ADA compliant pedestrian crossing signals. They anticipate work to be complete March 2015, weather permitting.

Rt175/Blandair Park Interchange

This project will construct an interchange directly from Rt175 into Blandair Park, reducing traffic coming into Oakland Mills and our local roads.

The County has awarded the contract and construction is expected in March 2015, weather permitting. The timeframe of this project and the alignment of Oakland Mills Rd is approx. 2yrs.

Future Projects

Blandair Park: Phase 2 Construction

Construction of Phase 2 will include sidewalk connections, a playground, 2 artificial turf fields, comfort station, pavilion, 5 tennis courts, parking lot, a promenade, County bus stop and stormwater management facilities.

We anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, and could take two years to complete, weather permitting.

Oakland Mills Rd Realignment at Blandair

This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Oakland Mills Rd and Old Montgomery and realign Oakland Mills Rd in the park. The timeframe of this project is approx. 22 months and we anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting. Motorists may experience detours. As part of construction in Blandair, a bridge will be constructed over Route 175 connecting to the northern portion of the Park. Once that is complete, the entrance to Blandair Park from Sohap will be closed, reducing resident concerns about increased traffic and speeding on Oakland Mills neighborhood streets.

Rt103 at Wesley/Old Stockbridge

Due to traffic concerns expressed to SHA and my office, SHA is proposing a traffic signal project to include left-turn phasing along eastbound and westbound MD103, pedestrian control signals, and crosswalk pavement markings along the west leg of MD103 and Old Stockbridge Dr. At this time, SHA is working on right of way acquisition. They hope to begin work summer 2016.



Rt 103 @ Long Gate Pkwy

There are two projects in this corridor: SHA is studying widening Rt103 and a property owner has proposed a project on Rt103/Montgomery Rd next to the YMCA. It would allow for up to 79 townhomes with a max density of 111 townhomes. SHA is also working with the property owner to install the missing sidewalk portion and possible installation of a light.

School allocations have placed this project on hold; however, SHA may choose to construct the missing portion of the sidewalk in the interim near the Gatherings though at this time, there is no funding for the project. A public meeting will be held but none are scheduled at this time.

Merriweather at Symphony Woods

The planning board acted to approve Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods for Phase I and II and future phases III-VII for the uses, locations and general design of the features proposed in all phases on the condition that additional County review and Planning Board approval will be required for final design details prior to obtaining grading or building permits for phases III-VII. They are currently working on obtaining developer agreements.

Rt 1 Sidewalk, Crestmount to Cedar

At my request, SHA will coordinate efforts to improve pedestrian improvements in this area. Specifically, SHA will construct a missing portion of sidewalk along Route 1 from Crestmount south to Cedar. The County will arrange for a public meeting; however, no date has been selected.

Route 1 at Montevideo Rd

This project will include the relocation of Montevideo Rd to align with Port Capital Dr. SHA anticipates this project will likely proceed before the Rt1 widening. The 65% plans from SHA were received and the County is working through SHA comments. BG&E completed their plans for utility relocations and the County has authorized them to proceed. SHA and the County are still working to receive needed land acquisitions.

Rt 1: Rt 175 to Montevideo

This is a State Highway project to widen Rt1 near the intersection of Rt175 and make other improvements as needed. Currently, SHA and the County are working on an MOU that will, among many things, coordinate right-of-way land acquisitions necessary for the project and collaborate with BG&E to relocate the utility poles. Plats are being developed to address the r/w line needed to relocate the utility poles.

Rt 175 Improvements

SHA is programming two short term intersection improvement projects: **I95 NB to Rt175 EB** – elimination of the slip ramp and creation of a right-turn movement to better manage the weave of traffic for Rt1 NB; **Rt1 NB to Rt175 WB** – Widen Rt1 NB to allow for extension of turn lanes so they don't backup into Rt1 NB lanes blocking traffic.

Rt 175 at Tamar Dr

SHA and County will install flex posts on Tamar Dr south to reduce U-turns made by motorists who attempt to avoid waiting for the light at Rt175. This project is anticipated to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting.

Multi-Use Pathway: Phase 2, 3 and 4

As part of the Downtown Columbia redevelopment legislation, Howard Hughes will construct a multi-use pathway from HCGH to Blandair Park. (CEPPA 12). All phases were approved by Planning Board on November 20, 2014. The existing pathway will be widened, vegetation along the path will be pruned for security as necessary, and add'l lights will be installed to increase visibility. Intersections and crosswalks will be designed to accommodate & mark pedestrian traffic and include appropriate signage. The developer may proceed with Phase 2 at any time after receiving proper permits; however they are currently working to obtain necessary easements to move forward with Phase 3 and 4.

Stevens Forest Rd/White Acre Streetscape

To reinvest in Oakland Mills and our Village Center, I've been working with the County and the OM Village Board to develop a streetscape project that supports our Master Plan. A revised plan was presented to the OM Board on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. Concept Plan 1 includes storm water management facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, shared bike lanes, lightings, preservation & plantings of trees, roadway medians, on-street parking and relocated bus shelters. Plans are currently under review by County agencies. We anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting.

Elkridge Water Main Replacement

A Howard County construction project to replace an existing water service main along Pirch Way, Aspern Dr and Sanctuary Ct in Elkridge is expected to begin on or about Monday, March 23. Approx. 5,000 linear ft of 8-inh water main will be installed. Weather permitting; the project will be completed by late May 2015.

Throughout the project, temporary lane shifts can be expected Monday- Friday, 9am-3:30pm. Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed and signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction.

For questions or concerns about Capital Project W-8321, contact Lisa Brightwell at 410-313-3440 or email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Ilchester Rd Water Main Replacement

A Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 7, 2015 at 7pm** at Bonnie Branch Middle School, 4979 Ilchester Road in Ellicott City to present Capital Project W-8316: The Ilchester Road Water Main Replacement Project. It includes replacement of approx. 5,700 linear ft of water main along Ilchester Rd from Montgomery Rd to Ellis Ln. Construction will begin Spring 2015 and will continue into the Fall. Motorists can expect lane closures and traffic detours. For more info, please call 410-313-2040.

Old Montgomery Rd/Tamar Drive Roundabout

My office has worked with DPW Engineers to address concerns at the Tamar Drive/Old Montgomery Road Intersection by Jeffers Hill Community Center. On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, we met with the Long Reach Village Board and residents to present a proposed roundabout as a means to reduce traffic accidents and improve the traffic flow. We received the support of the village board and the overwhelming majority of residents. The next step is to create a design and once we have 30% design, come back before the community for feedback. At this time, no follow-up meeting has been scheduled.

Completed Projects

Oakland Mills Rd Tunnel Lighting Improvements

After hearing concerns from the community, I coordinated with Recreation & Parks for the installation of lights in the tunnel under Oakland Mills Road. This increased visibility will promote safety. This project has been completed.

Stream Restoration at Rt175/Oakland Mills RD

This was a Howard County construction project to repair an eroding stream in CA open space on Rt175 at Oakland Mills Rd. The stream and storm drain outfall are now graded and stabilized using a combination of stone and vegetative treatments. Invasive species along the stream banks have been removed and replaced with native plants. The project has been completed.

Thank You For Following Along!

I hope you have found this information useful. If there are any projects you would like to see included within this newsletter, please email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov.

All the best,



Dr. Calvin Ball
Councilmember, District 2
Howard County Council

"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.